OBSERVATIONS

UPON

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES,

DISCOVERED BETWEEN THE

FORTH AND CLYDE.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)
30 JUL 60

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BY THE LATE

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EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY ANDREW FOULIS.

1800.

BIBLIOTECA
CENTRALE

OBSERVATIONS

UPON

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A few years ago there was found upon the Roman wall, near Caſtle-Cary, a ſtone which is about three feet nine inches in length, and one foot nine inches in breadth. At each of its ends there is an ornament of a Parthian ſheild, as it is called; and in the middle a plain moulding, with this inſcription.

IMP. CÆS. T. ÆL. AN
AUG. PIO. P. P.
COH. Iv. TVNGRO
RVM FECIT.

Imperatori Cæſari Tito Aelio Antonino Auguſto pio pater patriæ, cohors prima Tungrorum fecit * mille paſſuum. The mark after

* In the deſcription of the Roman wall, given in the laſt chapter of the fourth book of Roy's antiquities, it hath been conjectured, that the mark might be intended as the contraction for expreſſing, not one, but three or four thouſand.

fecit is nearly the ſame with that upon the other ſtones which have been found upon this wall, and which denote one mile, or a thouſand Roman paces. The Tungri were the modern Ligeois; and Tacitus informs us, that two cohorts of them contributed greatly to conquer the famous Galgacus; whoſe eloquence, valour, and love of liberty, do the higheſt honour to this country. "Ac primo congreſſu," ſays he, "eminus certabatur ſimul conſtantia, ſimul arte, Britanni ingentibus gladiis, et brevibus cetris miſſilia noſtrum vitare vel excutere atque ipſi magnam vim telorum ſuperfundere, donec Agricolæ tres Batavorum cohortes ac Tungrorum duas cohortatus eſt ut rem ad mucrones et manus adducerent."

Some time ago, the workmen who wanted ſtones for the great canal between the Forth and Clyde, made a quarry at the fort of Caſtle-Cary. At the eaſt end of it they diſcovered circular buildings, which ſeem to have been a ſudarium; at the ſame time, they found pieces of metal of burnt earth, which are as beautiful as our modern Staffordſhire pots. They found likewiſe a number of bones, ſome of which ſeem plainly to be the tuſks of boars; theſe circular buildings were quite covered over with earth. They were made of free ſtones, dreſſed with a tool but not cemented with lime. In one of them was found an altar that is very entire. It is in the form of a column, and is about two feet four inches in height, and fifteen inches in breadth. The thuribulum on the top, is very diſtinct, and has a ſmall riſing in the middle, and ſcrolls at the ſides, ſuch as are upon the altars in the poſſeſſion of Glaſgow college. Near this altar was found a ſmall figure of the goddeſs Fortune, in alto relievo, with a wheel in her hand; upon the altar is this inſcription:

FORTUNAE
VEXILLA-
TIONES
LEG. II. AUG.
LEG. VI. VIC.
P. S. P. L. L.

Fortunae vexillationes legionis ſecundae Auguſtae legionis ſextae victricis. P. S. P. LL.

This goddeſs had many altars dedicated to her in ancient Rome, and indeed ſhe has been a deity in all nations, and in all ages, under different names.

A Roman legion at the time this wall was made conſiſted of ſix thouſand men, who were divided into ten manipulæ, or cohorts, and each cohort was divided into ſix centuriæ, or companies, and each centuriæ into ten parts; each of which was commanded by an inferior officer, called decanus. Every centurio had a vexillum, flag, or colours. Now if in every centurio there were nine of the beſt men with their decanus, placed next to the vexillum, and honoured with the particular care of it; there were ſix hundred men to form the vexillatio of a legion: and theſe ſix hundred men were, in ſome reſpects, like the modern grenadiers, when choſen by merit, and not by their appearance. The authority for making a vexillatio conſiſt of ſix hundred men, is a paſſage in Hyginus, who lived in one hundred and thirty-ſeven years after Chriſt. His authority to be ſure is not ſo good as that of Vegetius would be, who was perfectly known in military affairs; but it is the beſt we have, and is not contradicted by the accounts which other authors give of the vexillarii of a legion. Had Vegetius lived in the time of Antoninus Pius, we ſhould have known exactly the number of men in a vexillatio; but he flouriſhed in the reign of Valentinian the Brother of Gratian, that is towards the end of

the fourth century, at which time vexillatio had loſt its former meaning, and was uſed to ſignify an ala of horſe.

As the Romans were remarkably ſuperſtitious, it is no wonder that they gave a fortunate epithet to each of their legions; accordingly Auguſta was the ſurname, as it were, of the ſecond, and Victrix of the ſixth.

The letters in the laſt line, make the only difficulty in reading this inſcription; perhaps they refer to the ſtatue of the goddeſs, and ought to be read poſuerunt ſtatuam pie lubentes, lubenter; or perhaps they ought rather to be read, pro ſalute poſuerunt; lubentes, lubenter.

In May, 1771, as the workmen were carrying on the canal near, the fort of Achindavie, they diſcovered four altars, a mutilated buſt, a broken altar, and two great iron mallets. All theſe things were found in the tract of the canal, about nine feet below the ſurface of the earth; and in a pit which appeared to be about ſeven feet diameter at the top, and three at the bottom. The inſcriptions upon the altars inform us, that they were erected by a centurion of the ſecond legion. From this circumſtance, and the pit in which they were buried, it is ſuppoſed that they were tumbled in there when he died, or left the legion; but as this would have been diſhonouring what was held ſacred, it is much more probable that they were buried there, when the Romans left Caledonia. The common opinion is, that they were buried there by the zeal of the Chriſtians, or by the contempt of the natives; but it is much more probable, that they were put there by the Romans themſelves, in order to preſerve them from the indignity which they would naturally meet with from the natives, whether Pagans or Chriſtians. Had the Chriſtians been deſirous of ſhewing their contempt for idolatry, or the natives for th monuments of their conquerors, they might have reduced them to ſand with one

fiftieth part of the trouble which was employed in digging a pit and burying them in it. Nor is it likely that the hammers would have been buried by Pagans or Chriſtians, as all rude people ſet a high value upon iron.

The largeſt of theſe altars is three feet and three-eighths of an inch high, one foot two and one-half inches broad, and one foot and three eighths of an inch thick. Its form is that of the baſe of a column. The thuribulum is large and deep, with an eminence in the middle, for ſetting fire, I ſuppoſe, more eaſily to the libation. There are three ſcrolls, which may either be conſidered as the common ornaments of a column, or as books, which were the proper ornaments of an implement of religion, as being connected with learning. The two ſide ſcrolls have ligatures at the middle. Nothing but the ends appear of the middle ſcroll, the greateſt part of it being cut off by the thuribulum. There are no letters but on one ſide; and the reading is, Jove optimo maximo victoriæ victrici pro ſalute imperatoris noſtri et ſua ſuorum Marcus Cocceius Firmus centurio legionis ſecundæ Auguſtæ; et votum ſolvit, or poſuit, may be underſtood.

In this inſcription I. O. M. is undoubtedly to be read as above. The title Victrix given to Victoria, was in conſequence, I ſuppoſe, of her having lately given a Victory; for we ſee, from other monuments, that ſhe has ſimiliar epithets, ſuch as Victoria Reduci. Imp. certainly ſtands for Imperatoris, and N. with a ſtroke over it for noſtri. Et ſua ſuorum, is like him and his, in our common expreſſion; ſo that, when the ellipſis is ſupplied, the reading is, pro ſalute imperatoris noſtri, et pro ſalute ſuo, et pro ſalute ſuorum.

On the next altar, between the M. and the C. there is a ſmall triangle, which is a common Roman point in ſuch inſcriptions: M. therefore ſtands for Marcus Cocceii for Cocceius. There is no Roman name upon inſcriptions more common than Cocceius.

If the reading was Firmus, the ſon of Cocceius, filius being underſtood, it ought to be Cocceii: Cocceii, therefore, is only an ab-

breviation of his name, by leaving out the laſt ſyllable, us. M. Acili: M. F. is read, Manius Aſſylius Manii Filius: and thus D. Junii M. F. is read, Decimus Junius Manii filius. There are no letters for Centurio, but only the well known mark for it like, V laid upon its ſide.

The ſecond altar is two feet nine and one-half inches in height, twelve and one-half inches in breadth, and eight inches in thickneſs. It is like the firſt, excepting that there are but two ſcrolls, and they have no ligatures. The inſcription upon it is Marti Minervae Campeſtribus heroi Eponae Victoriae Marcus Cocceius Firmus, centurio legionis ſecundae Auguſtae. Marti and Minervae are at full length: the two next lines admit of two readings; the firſt is Campeſtri, and it is an epithet to Minerva, ſo that it means the rural Minerva; and the next line is Ruſherio, the I being in the middle of the O, which was a common device of the workmen, when they had not room for it in the line; ſo that Ruſherio is the Dative of Ruſherius, who we may ſuppoſe was a German deity, as the next line, Eponae, is undoubtedly the name of a German goddeſs; and we know certainly, that there were Germans at that time in the Roman army. This is the ſecond reading: the letter which in the firſt reading is ſuppoſed to be an R is a B, and as the lower half of it is broken off, it may be taken either for the one or the other, though to me it ſeems to be a B; in which caſe the bus may be the laſt ſyllable of Campeſtribus, and the reading will be, Marti Minervae Campeſtribus, which was a common name for certain rural females, a ſort of weird Siſters, to whom there are many inſcriptions; and the remaining letters in the line may be read, heroi, which may be ſuppoſed to mean the hero, whoever he was, whom Firmus worſhipped; and then follows Eponae, a German Goddeſs. In proof of theſe readings, there is at Elmenhorſt the following inſcription; Deae Epone Marcus Opilius Reſtio, miles ligionis Viceſimae ſecundae, &c. and there is this inſcription at Pinsberg, near the Danube; Campeſtribus et Epone ala prima ſingularium civium Romanorum, &c. There is likewiſe an altar which was found at

Beningen, with this inſcription: Campeſtribus Sacrum Publius Quintius Lucii filius, &c. There are likewiſe many inſcriptions to the Campeſtres which have been found in Britain, and particularly one at Cramond, near Edinburgh which it is ſuppoſed was called by the Romans Alaterva. The ſtone was discovered at Cramond; and the inſcription beigins, Campeſtribus Alatervis. There are conſiderable difficulties attending each of theſe readings: firſt, I know no inſtance where Campeſtres is an epithet to Minerva, though it is given to ſome of the other deities. We muſt take it for granted, that Ruſherius was a German deity, for I can find no proof of his exiſtence from other monuments. This, however, to ſuch as are accquainted with the ancient inſcriptions, will not appear to be too great preſumption; for words often occur which moſt certainly have been the names of deities, though there are no proofs of the exiſtence of theſe deities, either from books, or from the monuments of antiquity. There is one, for inſtance, at Mr. Sharp's, of Hotham, in the ſouth of Scotland, which from the reſt of the inſcription, and the ſound, appears to have been the name of a German or Britiſh deity. In the ſecond reading, the only difficulty is in Heroi; becauſe it was not uſual on inſcriptions to addreſs a hero as a Divinity without naming him.

The third altar is two feet ſix inches and three eighths of an inch in height, Eleven inches in breadth, and eight inches and three eights in thickneſs. The inſcription upon it is Genio terrae Britannicae Marcus Cocceius Firmus centurio legionis ſecundae Auguſtae. There is a mark after the O in genio, which many have read S, but this is plainly a miſtake: it is an ornament ſomething like the figure of a heart, which we ſee, from other ſtones, was often uſed by Roman ſculptors, in order to fill up the line.

The fourth latar is two feet four inches and ſeven eights in height, twelve inches and one eight in breadth, and in thickneſs eight inches and three eighths. There are three ſcrolls, as in the firſt

altar, only they have no ligatures, and below them there are more ornaments than upon the reſt, viz. fluttings and cords. The inſcription is, Dianae Appollini Marcus Cocceius Firmus centurio legionis ſecundae Auguſtae. From the top of the broken altar it appears to have been very ſmall. It was dedicated to Silvanus; for the only letters remaining are Sylvano.

The mutilated buſt ſeems to repreſent an auxiliary ſoldier.

Theſe five altars, and mutulated buſt, were given by the proprietors of the canal between the Forth and Clyde, to Glaſgow College, where they are now depoſited.

One of the iron mallets weighs two ſtone fourteen and one half pounds Dutch, and the other, two ſtone two pounds; and from the firſt at leaſt five or ſix pounds is broken off. They have been much uſed, for their faces were greatly battered. The little impreſſion which the ruſt has made upon them is ſurpriſing, but the ſmallneſs of the holes in which the handles have been fixed is more ſo. The workmen ſay, that when they found them there were the marks of wood in the holes: but in this they might be miſtaken; for when iron is ruſted it becomes foliaceous, ſo that it might be mistaken for corrupted wood. If the handles were really of wood, they could not have been uſed as mallets are at preſent, becauſe of the weight of the head, and the ſmallneſs of the handles: if the handles were of iron, they would even in that caſe, without a wooden covering, have been very inconvenient. Perhaps they were wrought by a machine, and were uſed for quarrying ſtones.

All theſe things were found in one pit, and might have been depoſited there for the reaſons above aſſigned, while Agricola was in this country; or this, perhaps, happened afterwards, at the building of the wall, as they were found a few yards without the rampart.

Signed

JOHN ANDERSON.

Glaſgow College
Jan 2, 1793.

I O M
VICTORIAE
VICTRICIPR SE
TE IMPNE T SVA
SVORVM
MCCCCLI
FIRMVS
LEG II AVG

BRITISH MUSEUM
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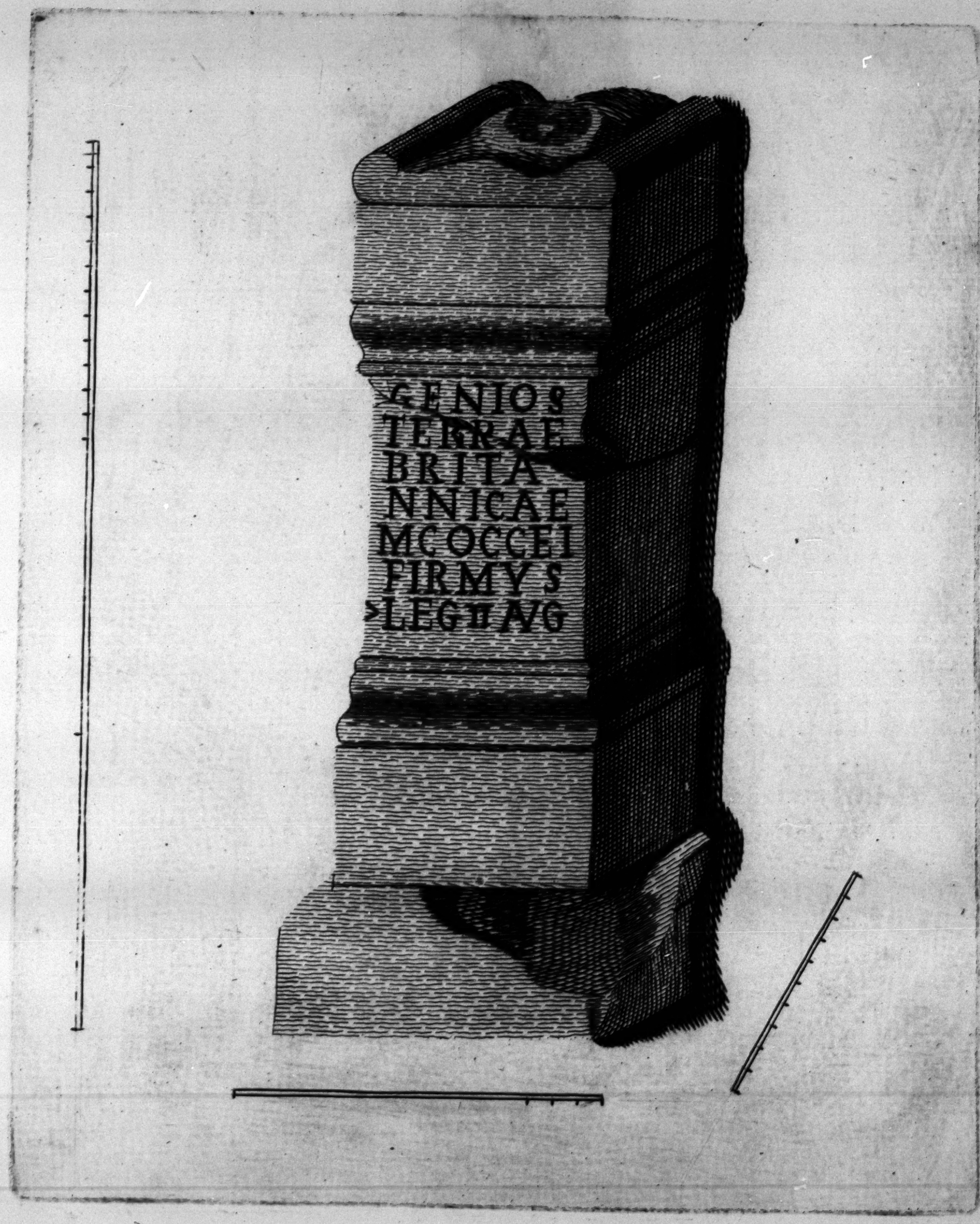
JUL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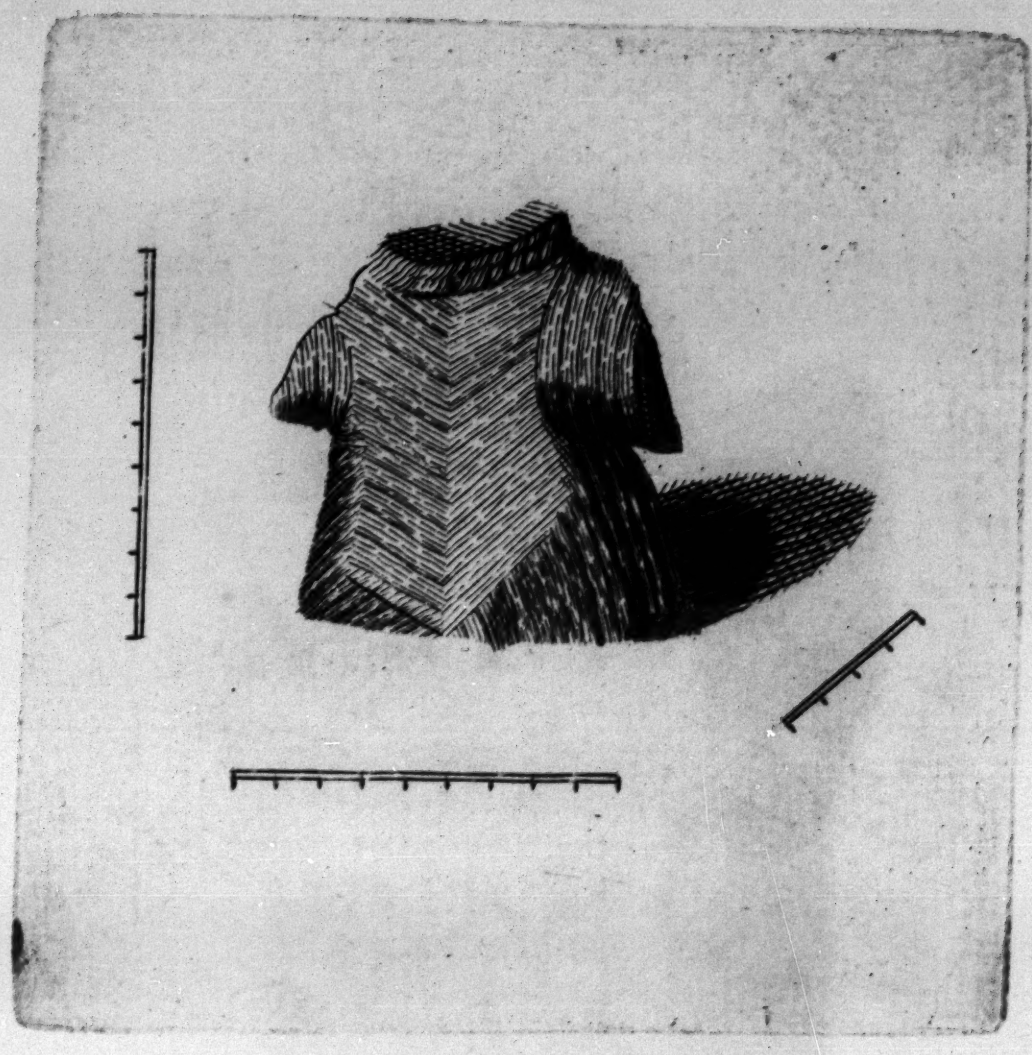

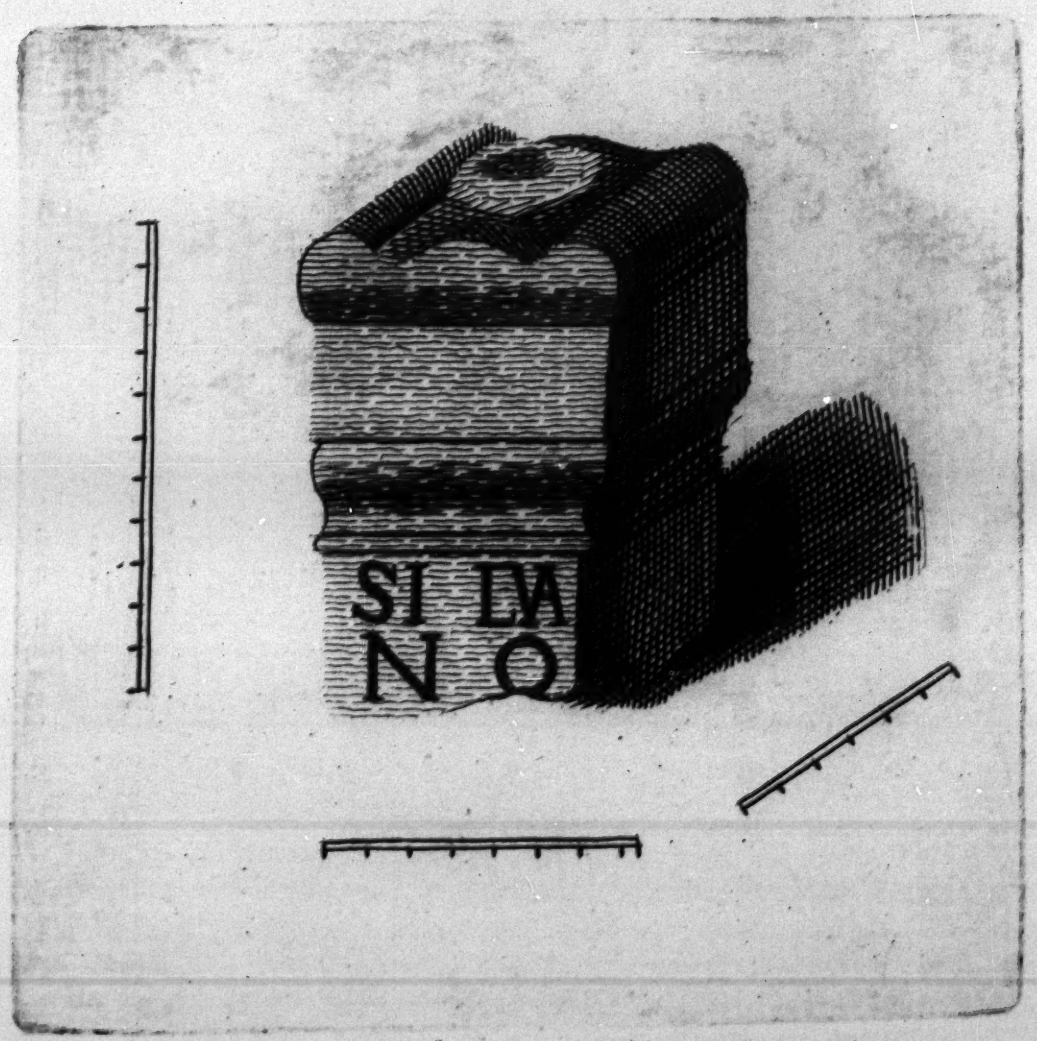
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MARTI
MINERVAE
CAMPESTRI
BVSHERO
EPONAE
VICTORIAE
M COCCEI
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> L EGII AVG